

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended. New claim 7 has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

The Examiner suggests correction of any errors in the specification. Upon a detailed review of the application, it was believed appropriate to make certain amendments to the specification to correct instances of idiomatic, grammatical or other minor errors and for further clarity, and to place this application in preferred U.S. format for allowance at this time. No new matter has been added and therefore the amendments to the specification are respectfully requested to be made at this time.

In addition, claim 4 has been amended to set forth the supplied light emitted from "the" exiting surface, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,298,249 to Gloor et al. ("Gloor") or U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455 to Ishikawa et al. ("Ishikawa"). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a surface light source device of a side light type and a light control element suitable for use in the device. As described at page 10, line 7 to page 11, line 7 of the present application, a prism sheet reflects illumination light with roughened exiting-surface slopes corresponding to light-source-side slopes to correct a main emitting direction of illumination light frontward relative to an exiting surface. As a result, when the

surface light source device is viewed from an exiting-surface side, metallic luster of a reflecting sheet is reduced.

In addition, as described at page 12, lines 18-25 of the present application, by roughening the exiting-surface slopes of the prism sheet, an exiting surface of a prismatic surface is uniformly illuminated, resulting in a reduction of light effects of the reflecting sheet.

Claim 1 of the present invention sets forth a light control element spaced from a reflecting sheet that has a light entrance side with a prismatic surface and a light emitting side. The prismatic surface has repeated projections with slopes inclined with respect to a plane of the light control element, with at least part of the slopes defining a light diffusible surface to generate diffused light passing through the light control element toward the light emitting side and to reduce light effects of the reflecting sheet.

Claim 4 of the present invention sets forth a reflecting sheet and a light control element that has a light entrance side with a prismatic surface. The prismatic surface has repeated projections with slopes inclined with respect to a plane of the light control element, with at least part of the slopes defining a light diffusible surface to generate diffused light passing through the light control element towards the light emitting side and to reduce light effects of the reflecting sheet.

Gloor teaches an electro-optical display for redirecting incident light into the eye of an observer. More specifically, as described at column 3, lines 4-45 of Gloor, Gloor teaches a plane reflector with reflecting surface strips that prevents incident light coming from above or

from the side from being reflected downward. The reflecting surface strips, which are triangular in shape, reflect light into the eye of an observer.

Similarly, Ishikawa teaches a transparent member that has a surface that includes parallel prism-like convex portions having course surfaces. As described at column 5, lines 34-59 of Ishikawa, the course surfaces of the convex portions vary the light diffusing effect, in order to obtain a uniform brightness directed towards a display.

Neither Gloor or Ishikawa teach reducing light effects of a reflecting sheet as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2 and 3 dependent thereon, and independent claim 4 and claims 5 and 6 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable over Gloor and Ishikawa. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

New claim 7 has been added and sets forth a light control element to control light emitted from an exiting surface of a light guide plate in order to reduce light effects of a reflecting sheet. As described above, neither Gloor or Ishikawa teach reducing light effects of a reflecting sheet, as set forth in new claim 7. Therefore, new claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over Gloor and Ishikawa. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 7 is respectfully requested.

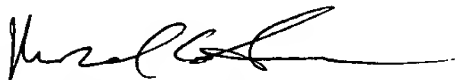
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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